

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

OMB-01 SS-20 NSC-10 TAR-02 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /122 W

----- 078797

R 091150Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9052

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1661

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR PFOR

SUBJECT: US SUGAR QUOTA-RAMPHAL'S VIEWS ON REDUCTION

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 1606 (B) STATE 214575

1. SAW FONMIN RAMPHAL YESTERDAY, AT HIS REQUEST, TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING BOGOTA MEETING OF LA FONMINS. HE WAS EXTREMELY HARD PRESSED FOR TIME SO DID NOT HAVE CHANCE DISCUSS RECENT EMBROGLIO OVER REDUCTION IN US SUGAR QUOTA IN ANY DETAIL. I

DID MENTION IT BRIEFLY, HOWEVER. RAMPHAL'S IMMEDIATE AND FIRST COMMENT WAS "I DON'T KNOW HOW WE ARE GOING TO CURB THE NEW NATION."

2. THIS GAVE ME OPPORTUNITY TO DECRY THIS TYHE OF PUBLICITY AND WHAT APPEARS BE GUILT-MOTIVATED REACTION BY WEST INDIANS, AND GUYANESE IN PARTICULAR, WHICH CAUSES THEM TO JUMP TO CONCLUSION THAT ANYTHING WHICH HAPPENS WHICH IS NOT TO THEIR LIKING IS CALCULATED MOVE BY USG TO PUNISH THEM FOR NON-ALIGNED POLICIES. RAMPHAL SEEMED GENUINELY SHOCKED WHEN I TOLD HIM OF MY CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER
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BURKZAM AND TNISTER NASCIMENTO CONCERNING NEW NATION

EDITORIAL (REF A). HE JUST SHOOK HIS HEAD.

3. RAMPHAL SAID THAT IN COURSE MEETING OF CARICOM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN KINGSTON LAST MONTH HE HAD BEEN ASKED DIRECT QUESTION AS TO WHETHER CUT IN US SUGAR QUOTA WAS POLITICAL MOVE. HE CLAIMED HE HAD REPLIED THAT HE HAD THOUGHT ABOUT THIS POSSIBLY AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH BUT HAD CONCLUDED THIS NOT THE CASE, THAT US SIMPLY IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION WHICH CONTAINED NO DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY. SUBSEQUENTLY, IN HIS SEVERAL PASSINGS THROUGH LONDON ON HIS PEREGRINATIONS TO AFRICA AND BRUSSELS, HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH TOP OFFICIALS OF BOOKERS SUGAR ESTATES IN SAME VEIN. ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, AND PROBABLY EXCEEDING HIS AUTHORITY, HE HAD PERSONALLY PHONED FRANK NOEL, PERMSEC IN MINISTRY OF TRADE WHO WAS GOING TO WASHINGTON FOR TALKS ON SUGAR, TO INSTRUCT HIM TO KEEP TALKS ON TECHNICAL LEVEL AND AVOID ANY SUGGESTIONS WHATSOEVER THAT MATTER WAS A POLITICAL ONE. (ANTHONY HAYNES OF BOOKERS HAS TOLD ME AMB TALBOT ARGUED THAT REDUCTION WAS IN FACT PUNITIVE POLITICAL MOVE BY USG.)

4. RAMPHAL SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS WHOLE MATTER IN GREATER DEPTH WHEN TIME PERMITTED. I CONCURRED, SAYING I PARTICULARLY WOULD LIKE CHANCE TO EXPLAIN FACTS REGARDING ALLEGED "SELECTIVE NON-ENFORCEMENT" OF US SUGAR LAW WITH RESPECT TO OTHER LA COUNTRIES (REF B). HE EXPRESSED INTEREST. KING

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